

**Clean copy of Allowed claims**

1. A method for editing a netlist, the method comprising:  
providing a version of the netlist comprising a set of hardware description language netlist modules;  
creating a changes module in hardware description language describing at least one consistent change to the netlist modules, the at least one consistent change being applicable to multiple versions of the netlist; and  
using the changes module to modify at least one of the netlist modules according to the at least one consistent change to create a modified versions of the netlist.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the changes module contains a modifier associated with at least one of the netlist modules, the modifier indicating a change in the associated netlist module or instantiation of a module.
3. (Canceled).
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the changes module comprises a file separate from the netlist.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the using the changes module to modify at least one of the netlist modules further comprises:

parsing the netlist to create representational netlist comprising an array of objects,  
each object containing information about an associated element of the netlist;  
changing the representational netlist according to the at least one consistent change;  
converting the representational netlist into a hardware description language.

6. (Canceled).

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the using the changes module to modify at least one of the netlist modules is performed by a netlist compiler.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the using the changes module further comprises modifying a port configuration of a wire.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the using the changes module further comprises modifying a port configuration of a wire at different hierarchical levels of the netlist.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the changes module contains an instance modifier associated with an instance, the instance modifier indicating a change in the connection of a particular port of the instance.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the changes module contains an attribute modifier associated with a netlist element, the attribute modifier indicating a change in one or more attributes associated with the netlist element.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the changes module contains a port modifier associated with a netlist element, the port modifier indicating a change in a port configuration of the netlist element.

13. A method for editing a netlist, the method comprising:  
providing a version of the netlist comprising a set of hardware description language netlist modules;  
creating a changes module in hardware description language describing at least one consistent change to the netlist modules, the at least one consistent change including a change in a port configuration of a wire in the netlist, the at least one consistent change being applicable to multiple versions of the netlist; and  
using the changes module to modify at least one of the netlist modules according to the at least one consistent change to create a modified version of the netlist.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the using the changes module further comprises modifying the port configuration of the wire.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the using the changes module further comprises modifying the port configuration of the wire at different hierarchical levels of the netlist.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein the changes module contains a definitional modifier associated with at least one of the netlist modules, the definitional modifier indicating a change in the associated netlist module or instantiation of a module within the associated netlist module.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the changes module contains an attribute modifier associated with a netlist element, the attribute modifier indicating a change in one or more attributes associated with the netlist element.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein the changes module contains an instance modifier associated with an instance, the instance modifier indicating a change in the connection of a particular port of the instance.

19. (Canceled).

20. A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions which when executed on a computer perform a process for editing a netlist, comprising :

receiving a netlist comprising a set of hardware description language netlist modules;

receiving a changes module in hardware description language describing at least one consistent change to the netlist modules, the at least one consistent change being applicable to multiple versions of the netlist; and

using the changes module to modify at least one of the netlist modules according to the at least one consistent change to create a modified netlist.

21. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing another version of the netlist comprising the set of hardware description language netlist modules; and

using the changes module in hardware description language to modify at least one of the netlist modules in the another version of the netlist according to the at least one consistent change to create another modified version of the netlist.

22. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

providing another version of the netlist comprising the set of hardware description language netlist modules; and

using the changes module in hardware description language to modify at least one of the netlist modules in the another version of the netlist according to the at least one consistent change to create another modified version of the netlist.